

# Tiruray language

**Tiruray** or **Teduray** is an *Austronesian language* of the southern Philippines. According to *Ethnologue*, Tiruray is spoken in the following places:

- Datu Blah T. Sinsuat, Upi, and South Upi municipalities, in southwestern Maguindanao Province
- Lebak municipality, northwestern Sultan Kudarat Province

P. Guillermo Benassar published a Spanish-Tiruray dictionary in 1892.

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Tiruray	
Teduray	
Native to	Philippines
Region	Mindanao
Native speakers	50,000 (2002) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Philippine<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>South Mindanao<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Tiruray</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tiy
Glottolog	tiru1241 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/tiru1241</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Alphabet

The Tiruray alphabet is not in any particular order, but the lexicon uses 22 letters in the following order: <sup>?</sup>, a, b, k, d, e, é, f, g, h, i, l, m, n, ŋ, o, r, s, t, u, w, and y.<sup>[3]</sup>

# Phonology

Two features set the Tiruray language apart from other Austronesian languages of the area. The first is a six-vowel system, and the second is the lack of a bilabial stop, but the presence of a bilabial fricative in its place.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Consonants

		Place				
Manner	Voicing	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	Voiceless		t		k	ʔ
	Voiced	b	d		g	
Fricative	Voiceless	f	s		h	
	Voiced					
Nasal	Voiced	m	n		ŋ	
Lateral	Voiced		l			
Trilled Vibrant	Voiced		r			
Vocoid	Voiced	w		y		

## Vowels

The Tiruray language has 6 vowel phonemes. These are split into three categories: front vowels, middle vowels, and back vowels.<sup>[3]</sup>

Vowel Phonemes

	Front	Mid	Back
High	i	e	u
Mid	é	a	
Low			o

The vowels /a, i, é/ have allophones used before the t, k, voiced stops, nasals, /l/, and /r/ in closed syllables.

## Syllables

Tiruray does not allow vowel sequences. The syllable structure is CVC or CV. The majority of word bases in Tiruray have two syllables, but stems may have from one to five syllables. Adding affixes, a word can consist of as many as eight syllables.

There is no restriction on consonants used in a word as long as the word follows the CVC or CV structure. However, the letters /w/ and /y/ never follow after /i/, and same rule applies to /w/ after /u/.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Stress

The primary word stress is placed on the ante-penultimate (third from the last syllable) or the penultimate (second to the last syllable) of a word with four syllables or more. Secondary stress is present on polysyllabic words, preceding the primary stress by two syllables. Stress is non-contrastive and non-phonetic.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Morphology

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### Nouns

Singular nouns are followed by *é* and plural nouns are preceded by *de* instead. This is exemplified below: <sup>[4]</sup>

Mitem i rawen é.  
black ?? cloud N.SG  
'The cloud is black.'

Mitem i de rawen.  
black ?? N.PL cloud  
'The clouds are black.'

### Verbs

The Tiruray verbs consist of an affix and verb base. Verbs are split into three categories numbered 1, 2, and 3.

Verbs that are accepted in a case frame having an objective actant are classed as verb 1. <sup>[4]</sup> An example of this is the following:

Menley u be ʔ sabon  
bought I ?? soap  
'I bought soap.'

Verbs of type Verb 2 do not require an objective actant in the case frame.<sup>[4]</sup> An example of Verb 2 is the following:

Lementu u.  
run I  
'I am running.'

Verb 3 refers to the verbs that accept affixes and are verbalized. Verb 3 is divided into Verb 3a and 3b. Verb 3a are those verbalized nouns that do not need any agent actant. Examples of such nouns are *rana* ʔ 'rain' and *luba* ʔ 'earthquake'. Verbs that accept affirmation aside from those mentioned above are Verb 3b, and they can occur with actants. Examples of the type Verb 3 are *enintura* 'painted' is derived from the noun root *fintura* 'paint', and *melansa* 'ironing' is derived from the noun root *felansa* 'flat iron'.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Actant

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An actant is any constituent which can enter a case relationship with the verb. Tiruray distinguishes six types of actants: Agent, Object, Dative, Benefactive, Instrument, and Locative.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Agent

The Agent is the source responsible for the action identified by the verb or the perceived instigator of the action identified by the verb.<sup>[4]</sup>

Basae i Rosa é i libro é  
read ?? Rosa N.SG ?? book N.SG  
'Rosa reads the book.'

## Object

The Object refers to the things or persons affected by the action or state identified by the verb.<sup>[4]</sup>

Menuwit i Maria é be ' ka 'an é 'eŋa ' .  
brought ?? Maria N.SG her child N.SG ??  
'Maria brought her child.'

## Benefactive

This is the case of the animate being for whom an action chosen by the verb is carried out, or the case of the animate being for whom an object specified in the Proposition is intended or reserved.<sup>[4]</sup>

Menley u safiyu fara ka Marina é.  
bought I hat for ?? Marina N.SG  
'I bought a hat for Marina.'

## Locative

The locative indicates the spatial orientation of the action or state identified by the verb.<sup>[4]</sup>

Semayaw i 'eja ' é dob be ' 'iro 'o mo é.  
jump ?? child N.SG ?? ?? bed your N.SG  
'The child is jumping in your bed.'

## Dative

This is the case of the animate being directly affected by the action or the state identified by the verb.<sup>[4]</sup>

Semulat i Linda é dob be ' 'ideŋ no é be ' bayuk.  
write ?? Linda N.SG ?? ?? mother her N.SG ?? poem  
'Linda writes her mother a poem.'

## Instrument

This marks the actant which expresses the object or being which is used as an instrument or means in carrying out the action or state identified by the verb.<sup>[4]</sup>

Bena<sup>ʔ</sup> us ku i<sup>ʔ</sup> eŋa<sup>ʔ</sup> é be<sup>ʔ</sup> mot é.  
wrapped I ?? child N.SG ?? blanket N.SG  
'I wrapped the child with the blanket.'

## Syntax

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### Word Order

In the basic word order the predicate followed by the series of NPs. The agentive or objective actant follows immediately after the predicate. When the agent is the topic, the agentive and objective actants may be changed without causing any semantic change.<sup>[4]</sup>

#### Verb, Agent, Objective

[Miber] [i<sup>ʔ</sup> eŋa<sup>ʔ</sup> é] [be<sup>ʔ</sup> batew é].  
[throw] [?? child N.SG] [?? stone N.SG]  
'The child throws the stone.'

#### Verb Objective Agent

[Miber] [be<sup>ʔ</sup> batew é] [i<sup>ʔ</sup> eŋa<sup>ʔ</sup> é].  
Throw [?? stone child N.SG] [?? child N.SG]  
'The child throws the stone.'

Both of these forms are grammatical provided this sentence and subject matter. In all other cases, any topicalized actant follows the agent.

## Loanwords

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The Tiruray people have adopted words from different places and though not all have been confirmed, according to the Tiruray speakers themselves the sources of the loans are Chinese, English, Hiligaynon, Maguindanao, Spanish, and Tagalog. These are the confirmed languages as given by the opinions of the Tiruray speakers. One language not listed as a source is Sanskrit, but suggested lexical items are perceived as native words by the speakers. Although some words are also borrowed from Arabic, these entered through Maguindanao.<sup>[3]</sup>

## References

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1. Tiruray (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tiy/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tiruray" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tiru1241>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Schlegel, Stuart A. 1971. *Tiruray-English Lexicon*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
4. Pilongo, Filomena Emnace. *Tiruray : Its Syntactic Structures*(1977). Print.

## Further reading

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- Blust, Robert. 1992. On speech strata in Tiruray. In Malcolm D. Ross (ed.), *Papers in Austronesian Linguistics* 2, 1-52. Canberra: Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University.
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